

## **AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PRT 2**

Last week, we looked at the subject of an **ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE** and it was part of the series on **HIS COMMISSION, OUR MISSION**. We said it takes an acquainted disciple to develop the capacity to make a difference wherever you are. In other words, an acquainted disciple is able to run with the Great Commission effectively.

We said to develop capacity, a disciple must become acquainted with Jesus, and the following points became apparent:

- The degree to which you are acquainted with Jesus is the degree to which you know and can obey His commands.
- Jesus is more interested in what you are becoming than in what you can do for Him.
- Relationship is more important than mission. In this regard, don't pursue anointing but rather pursue a relationship with God.
- This morning, I want to go deeper on how one becomes acquainted with Jesus and therefore I am doing **AN ACQUAINTED DISCIPLE PART 2**.
- Let me remind you about the meaning of to acquaint - to "acquaint" oneself means to gain knowledge, become familiar with, and develop an intimate, personal relationship with someone or something.
- We looked at two aspects last week:

**1. An acquainted disciple believes Jesus to be all-sufficient.**

**2. An acquainted disciple invests enough time with Jesus.**

*John 1:10-12 (NKJV) He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

- John, the disciple of Jesus, is narrating how John the Baptist introduced the Messiah to the world.
- As you can see, when Jesus came, He had two primary audiences; the first audience was the Jews. These were people of the covenant, whom John identified as Christ's own people. The second group, the Gentiles, were identified by John as the world.
- These two groups also responded to Jesus in different ways: The world or the gentiles did not recognise Him at all, and John says they did not know Him.
- Last week, I asked the question whether you know Jesus or not, and these Gentiles did not know Jesus at all. Knowing Jesus is only the starting point on the journey of acquaintance with Him, but it is not the end of it all.

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- This morning, I want to draw your attention to the second group, which was the Jews. They knew Jesus, but they did not receive Him – He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him.
- It is one thing to know Jesus, but it is another to receive Him as Lord and savior. These were covenant people, but they did not receive Jesus.
- This phenomenon is still common today, in which people come to church, and they know Jesus, but they have not received Him as their Lord.
- The implication of receiving Jesus is considerable in that, without receiving Him, you cannot become a child of God.

### **3. Acquaintance with Jesus starts with receiving Him as Lord.**

- The word receive, is important in the journey of getting acquainted with Jesus. It is an active word, based on what people do. To receive Him means to take Him in and to be joined with Him, to grab Him, to grasp Him and be united with Him. You accept His lordship and ruler ship. Accepting Jesus prompts submission, humility and total surrender to Jesus. You cannot find this in people who just know Jesus but have not fully acknowledged as the Lord “they knew Him but did not receive Him...”
- The Jews knew Jesus, but they did not receive Him – instead, Jesus was an offence to them.
- You can come to church, and you get to know Jesus, but you might not have received Him as Lord.
- It is possible to be in church but not in the Lord – in other words, you are a religious person without a relationship.
- How do you know if you have received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour? Your life is no longer given to the power of sin; you are becoming a better person because the sinful nature was destroyed. You are interested in what interests Jesus; He is in charge of your life, and you enjoy being with the Lord, among other things.
  - a. Willingness to submit to the Lord
  - b. You hear the voice of the master
  - c. You are surrendered to the Lord
  - d.
- You cannot be fully acquainted with Jesus unless He is your Lord and Saviour. A person who has received Jesus will be seen by their fruit.
- Something happens to those who received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour; Jesus gives them the right; He gives them authority to become children of God.

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- This is important because sonship and the ability to relate to Jesus is something that is given when you receive Him as Lord.
- In other words, receiving Jesus results in a childlike setup to unfold. A person who has received Jesus as Lord and Saviour is humble and wants to be with the Father.
- A child lives under the guardianship of their parent, a child is entirely dependent on their parent, a child receives instructions from their parents, a child is helpless when alone, and a child only knows as much as the parents have taught them.
- **Acquaintance occurs in the context of knowledge. The more you know about a church, the more acquainted you are with the church.**
- One of the blockages to knowing Jesus is that humans are limited in their understanding of the things of the spirit, and Jesus is beyond comprehension.
- God is amazing because He made a way for us to know Him.

*1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard," nor has it entered into the heart of man, "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man within him? So also no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*

- Paul talks to the Corinthians, and he tells them that they are limited, but they don't have to stay limited.
- There are things that they had not seen, heard or conceptualised in their walk with Jesus. Many people have been striving to know Jesus, but to no avail.
- There are dimensions of God that can only be known by moving beyond human effort, which require supernatural assistance.

#### **4. An acquainted disciple relies on the Holy Spirit**

- Like the Corinthians, you and I don't have to walk in the dark; we can know Jesus by relying on the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is in the business of revealing hidden gems in the heart of God for you. He is the revealer of secrets.
- Walking with the Holy Spirit helps you to know Jesus - *For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man within him? So also no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*
- Jesus was excited about going to heaven because that was going to initiate a deeper relationship between Him and the disciples.

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*John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is profitable for you that I should go away; for unless I go away the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

- Many people don't know Jesus because they try to understand Him through their limited and carnal minds.
- The Jews greatly misunderstood Jesus because they reasoned with their minds, and Jesus did not make sense to them.
- Relying on the Holy Spirit will assist you in believing Jesus when He speaks to you.

*John 16:13 However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. 14He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. 15Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you.*

- This is testament to the fact that you cannot acquaint yourself with Jesus unless you rely on the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth. Jesus says He is the truth, and to know the truth that is Jesus, you must rely on the Holy Spirit. How often have you asked the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth (Jesus) to you?
- Relying on the Holy Spirit means that you engage Him in all of life to receive His input.
- The Holy Spirit hears from Jesus and speaks those things to you. The Holy Spirit hears what the future holds from Jesus, and He comes and deposits it into your spirit man.
- Again, this is a spirit-to-spirit communion, requiring someone who received Jesus as Lord and savior.
- Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will glorify Him. This means that the Holy Spirit will highly esteem Christ in the minds and hearts of His disciples.
- The Holy Spirit makes Jesus stand out amongst other gods – He steps into those moments you are tempted to worship money, He steps into those moments when you are tempted to worship self.
- The Holy Spirit is the revealer of Christ's nature and character to His disciples.
- The things that don't make sense about Jesus will become clear in the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The greatest challenge that the church is facing today is the presence of carnal Christians who take everything via their natural senses.
- A natural man will fight the things of the spirit, and that is why people struggle with submitting to Jesus.

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- The Jews could not submit because they were religious, and the Greeks could not submit because they were too clever for Jesus.

*1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- Going back to what I started with, you need to receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and open yourself to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- A carnal disciple will remain shallow in their knowledge of Jesus. There is an ease you find in a spirit-led disciple, and there is a complication you find in a carnal disciple.
- To be acquainted with Jesus, the flesh must give way. Jacob must die to give room to Israel. Let us get rid of the old man and live according to the spirit.

*Romans 8: 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

- If you have received Jesus, you should be in a position to allow the Holy Spirit to lead you.
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